



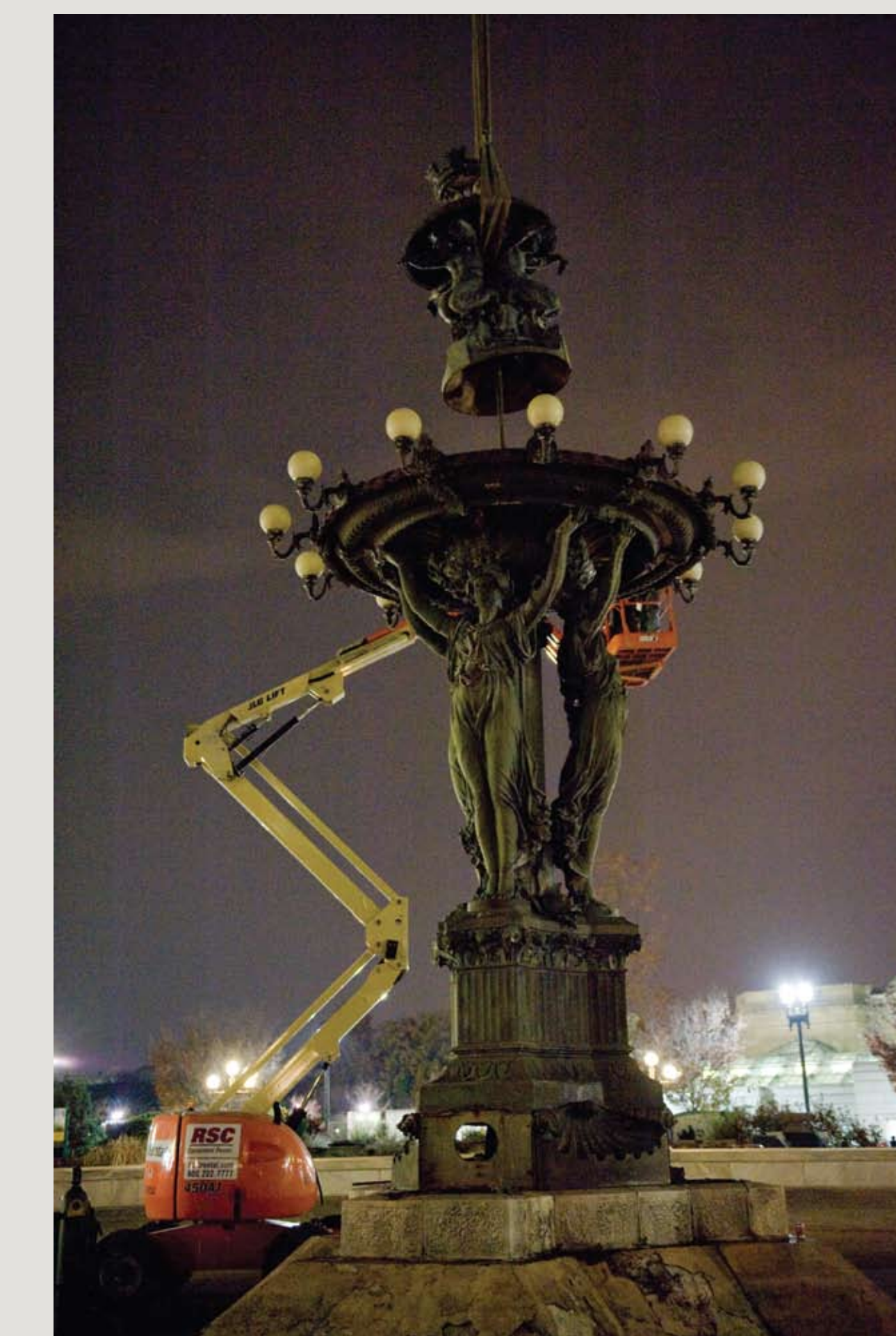
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL



UNITED STATES
BOTANIC GARDEN

Bartholdi Fountain Restoration

The 1876 cast-iron Bartholdi Fountain has been removed for restoration. The Fountain will be reinstalled after the site construction work is completed and then reactivated following the completion of Phase 3.



Project Phases

Phase 1 – Fountain Restoration began in November 2008 with removal and transport of the fountain to Alabama, where it is being restored by a firm that specializes in architectural restoration of cast-iron metal structures. The sculpture's restoration includes repairing deteriorated metal, replacing all interior mechanical and electrical components, and replacing the lights with new energy-efficient fixtures similar in style to the original gas sconces. The work is expected to take approximately 24 months to complete.

Phase 2 – Concrete Basin and Basin Light Restoration includes removal and replacement of concrete and under-slab plumbing prior to floor restoration. The fountain's pedestal and basin floor will be waterproofed. The existing electric lights on the basin wall will be replaced with energy-efficient replicas of the original fixtures. Work is now under way, and completion is expected in fall 2009.

Phase 3 – Utility Vault Upgrade includes the replacement of the existing underground utility vault and upgrade of electrical service and plumbing. A backflow prevention system and a new water treatment/filtration system also will be installed. Completion is scheduled for 2011.

About the Bartholdi Fountain

The Bartholdi Fountain, called a "Fountain of Light and Water," was based on Classical and Renaissance forms and is an elegant expression of the Gilded Age. The fountain appears on lists of American and international historically significant landmarks.

Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904), best known for creating the Statue of Liberty, on which he was working at the same time, created the cast-iron fountain for the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The fountain, cast in Paris by A. Durenne, weighs 30,440 pounds, stands 30 feet high, and has caryatid figures 11 feet in height.

The fountain was purchased by the United States Congress for \$6,000 and moved to Washington, D.C. It was placed near to where the Grant Memorial stands today on the grounds of the U.S. Botanic Garden (which was then located on the site of the reflecting pool).

The gas lamps, lighted by battery in 1881, made the fountain a popular attraction at night. The lights surrounding the basin were added in 1886, and the round glass globes replaced the original gas fixtures when the fountain was completely electrified in 1915.

During the relocation of the Botanic Garden in 1927, the fountain was dismantled and erected here in 1932. This garden was named Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi Park in 1985.

The cast-iron fountain was originally painted to look like bronze. Over the years the fountain has been repaired and maintained, including removal and replacement of old paints with modern protective finishes. Now, the full restoration of this work of art to its original glory, as well as updating it with energy-efficient and protective technology, will assure that the fountain continues to provide many years of service in our nation's capital.

